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No. IX.

DOOR-FASTENER.

The Thanks of the Society were presented to Mr. C. T. Coathupe, Wraxall, near Bristol, for his Door-fastener; a Model of which has been placed in the Society's Repository.

Wraxall, near Bristol, Jan. 18, 1841.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG herewith to present you with a very simple contrivance for Securing Doors, which may prove a useful companion both to travellers and to residents at home.

All doors (the exceptions being extremely rare) are constructed in such a manner that they must be opened, from without, inwards, into the respective apartments to which they belong. It is to such doors only that my fastening is applicable.

It will be seen that it consists of a peculiarly formed wedge, having a thumb-screw penetrating through its substance at the base. The wedge is "chisel-shaped." It is formed of steel, and has its thinner extremity hardened, and reduced to a "spring temper." The screw is also of steel, obtusely pointed at its end, and hardened and tempered at its point only.

Its application is as follows:—

1st.—Close the door of the room in which you desire to remain secure.

2dly.—Insert the wedge under the style of the door to which the ordinary lock is attached, but do not push it through to the entire thickness of the door. In doing this *keep the straight side of the wedge uppermost.*

3dly. — Turn the “ thumb-screw ” so as to force the wedge upwards, until a slight resistance becomes perceptible.

The application is now complete.

The peculiarities of this fastening are its simplicity of construction ; the facility of its appliance ; the power it affords of jamming a door firmly against the upper portion of its frame ; the impossibility of its slipping backwards (as an ordinary wedge may) ; the certainty that the more the door is forced inwards the more securely the fastening will become impacted ; its extreme portability, even to its admission as an implement for the dressing case ; the great readiness with which it may be removed by the party using it ; the absence of all unsightly marks from its use, and the total impossibility of its being externally removed without a continuous noise, which would awaken and alarm its proprietor.

If made on a larger scale, it would afford an efficient security for the external doors of houses, particularly if a plate of iron were so fastened upon the interior of the door that the portion of the door itself under which the wedge was placed could not be sawed out.

It is evident that such a contrivance will be available even upon a stone floor.

I am, Gentlemen, &c. &c.

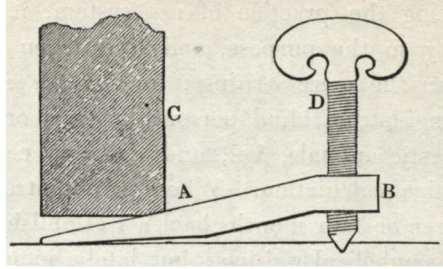
CHARLES THORNTON COATHUPE.

To the Committee of the Society of Arts.

Reference to the Figure.

It consists of a steel wedge and screw. The annexed figure is half-size, and represents it in action. A B is the

wedge inserted close under a door *c*; the end *B* is then raised by the screw *D*, which will press the door forcibly



upwards against its frame on its hinges, and the screw-point will enter the floor enough to prevent its being slidden back. Thus fastened, all pressure from without to open the door must fail, as it can only force the door farther up the already tightened inclined plane.

No. X.

INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. H. E. BRIDGE, 13 Upper George Street, Bryanston Square, for the following Communication on his System of Instructing the Blind.

13 Upper George Street, Bryanston Square,
September 24, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour of introducing to your notice a contrivance of mine which is calculated to be of essential benefit to society; it is a method of enabling the blind